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Behind The MGR Wave

BY CHITRAGUPTA

Neither the Janata wave in the North nor the 'MGR' wave in Tamil Nadu seems to have subsided, as the Assembly election results would go to show. This has belied the expectations of their opponents and allayed the fears of their supporters. The Congress President, Mr. Brahmananda Reddi, told a news Conference on his return from a tour of Tamil Nadu that the 'MGR' wave appeared to be on the wane. On the other hand, it is waxing like a tide and is likely to do so for quite sometime to come.

Both in terms of seats and votes, Mr. M. G. Ramachandran's party, the AIADMK, tops the tally. The figures are as follows:

1. AIADMK: 130 seats (in a house of 234); (52,81,642 votes: (which works out to about 30% of the total votes polled);
2. D.M.K: 48 seats; 41,60,141 votes (24%);
3. Congress: 27 seats; 29,26,223 votes (about 17%)
4. Janata: 10 seats: 28,49,300 votes (16.4%)
5. C.P.M.: 12 seats; 4,64,860 votes (about 2.5%)
6. C.P.I.: 5 seats; 5,33,846 votes (about 3%)
7. Forward Block: 1 seat; and
8. Muslim League: 1 seat: 1,17,505 votes.

The AIADMK contested 199 seats, leaving 20 for its main ally, the C.P.M. and a few for the Muslim League and other allies. It had won 130 sets on its own, which is a safe majority for a stable government, not to speak of the ten or so by its allies. Its success in the contest is 65%.

PERSONAL VICTORY

Though it is called an All-India party, because of its Prefix, the AIADMK is as much a regional party as the DMK from which it broke away some five years ago. On the question of regionalism, there is hardly any difference between the two parties, both of which can be equally parochial and equally jingoistic. The unseemly altercation between Mr. Karunanidhi and Mr. Ramachandran on "who is a Tamilian" sounded very much like the kettle calling the pot black. If the dispute that led to the breaking away was personal, even the resounding success of the AIADMK was very much a personal victory of MGR, the matinee idol. As a swashbuckling, horse-riding, rockleaping, villain-vanquishing hero of the Tamil screen, he can do no wrong in the eyes of his countless fans. He is the ever young Robinhood who robs the rich only to pay the poor, the gallant St. George who kills the dragons and rescues damsels in distress. He is the "parfait gentle knight", with a shining armour. His image is the brightest among the masses of Tamil Nadu, and where he could not appear in the flesh in the election campaign he sent his blown-up cut-outs, along with his voice recordings. The trick worked.

And the game proved more than worth the candle for 'MGR' who rode to power on the crescendo of rising expectations. He built up a reputation of being the most generous of men distributing rain-coats in the monsoon and cycle rickshaws among the poor and needy. He personified the hopes and aspirations of the unprivileged. It now remains to be seen how he can achieve the goal of making their dreams come true.

The DMK, under the leadership of its founder and his successor was doing just the same for its followers. It had, in fact, done a lot by way of providing huts for the homeless Harijans and others who needed them. Though its image is more than somewhat tarnished by the charges of corruption and nepotism and other irregularities, it has its organisational base solidly intact. In the City, its performance eclipsed that of every other party, as it has knocked away 13 seats out of a total of 14. Its other stronghold is Tanjore district, where it annexed a majority out of a total of 20 seats. Mr. Karunanidhi went to the extent of claiming that if only the Janata had agreed to a continuance of

M. G. RAMACHANDRAN

the alliance, the two together might well have secured a majority and formed the government. That is in the realm of speculation but the claim cannot be rejected as being wholly unreasonable.

JANATA REVERSES

Next in order of numerical strength of seats and votes comes the Congress which has done fairly well in securing 27 seats in the face of the near-total rout it experienced in the Northern states. But it had not done as well as it did in the March election in which it annexed 15 Lok Sabha seats, covering nearly 120 Assembly constituencies. It had many major casualities, including three of its General Secretaries, one of whom (Shrimati T. N. Anantanayaki) lost her deposit in a North Madras constituency.

But the Congress record is certainly better than that of the Janata, which contested 233 seats out of a total of 234 and came out last among the four, with success only in ten. Besides the defeat of the Party Secretary (Mr. Krishnamurthy, who is an able speaker) from Thyagaraya Nagar and Lakshmi Krishnamurthy (the daughter of the late Mr. S. Satyamurti) from Mylapore, it had many reverses in all the districts (Its only stronghold is the tiny Kanyakumari District, where the Nadars are still loyal to the memory of Mr. Kamaraj.) It had the added indignity of forfeiting the security deposits in as many as 120 constituencies.

Though Janata drew a blank in the City of Madras, the votes polled by it, numbering 2,26,928 do not compare very unfavourably with those of AIADMK—2,68,323 and do compare very favourably with the Congress total of 1,04,504. The Janata campaign was concentrated mainly in the City where the organiser, Dr. Subramaniam Swamy had done a good job among the educated middle class. In fact, a good number of the top leaders of the party including its President, Mr. Chandrasekhar, Acharya Kripalani, Mr. Morarji Desai, Mr. Jagjivan Ram and many other Ministers had done their best in the election campaign, but they were hardly able to make any dent on the AIADMK strongholds in the districts.

REASONS

Several reasons could be found for the Janata's failure in Tamil Nadu:—

(1) The Party is still widely considered as an imposition from the north, with the Hindispeaking leaders (including Hindi fanatics like Raj Narain and Madhu Limaye, known for their vigorous part in the 'Angrezi Hatao' movement inspired by Dr. Lohia), leading its strings;

(2) Even the repeated assurances on the language issue by the Prime Minister, Mr. Morarji Desai (that Hindi will not be imposed on any unwilling people) did not seem to have carried conviction with a people still relying on Pandit Nehru's promise on the floor of

(Contd. on page 7)

THUS SPAKE THE MAHATMA

In a strictly scientific sense God is at the bottom of both good and evil. He directs the assassin's dagger no less than the surgeon's knife.

ASOKA SCENTED BETEL NUT POWDER

Free India

SUNDAY June 19, 1977

AIADMK SUCCESS

The AIADMK victory in the Tamil Nadu Assembly election is as expected. The surprise is that it has not achieved two-thirds majority as is the fashion with the Janata Party in Hindi States.

All the three other parties, the Congress the DMK and the Janata as well as the appendages parties, the CPI and the CPI (M) put up a strong fight, fielding the right candidates.

The Congress suffered from lack of funds. The DMK had it in abundance. The Janata spent a lot at the fag end—the source for such sudden prosperity can be a corruption spot worthy of a national enquiry by a sitting judge of the Supreme court.

The results have definitely proved that the state is willing to be ruled by the people wedded to DMK ideals without its corrupting elements. The intelligentia of Madras city have shown their preference to the DMK rejecting totally the Congress and Janata.

The results have also shown that the Congress party at the lower level is quite strong. The rivalries at the top and the contagion of "guilt" from the north have dampened the enthusiasm of the workers. Still, the party has put up a good show even without an alliance with the AIADMK.

Still we maintain that an alliance would have dragged the AIADMK into the national mainstream with the Opposition Congress.

At the hustings, the Congress leaders were alleging that the AIADMK was in the habit of standing by the ruling party. An alliance would have prevented this situation. The CPI(M) will certainly see to it that the AIADMK tows the line of Janata at the centre.

Despite the big invasion of the Janata big guns, Tamilnadu has cried a big No to that party. The credit for this must undeservedly go to Mr. Subramaniam Swamy. M. P. the Railway Minister Dandawate and Communication Minister Farnandes who were making so many incoherent promises that sober people of the Prohibiton State (made really dry under a puritanical governor) refused to believe them.

In a democracy it is nonsense to say that only people with experience can rule. The truth is that "inexperienced" leaders can provide a more honest and efficient government because they will be well guided by the trained bureaucrats who go by the rules.

Mr. M. G. Ramachandran is endowed with abundant common sense and he knows the sufferings of the poor—who form the backbone of his party. He has also fielded people with high academic records and it must be easy for him to form a competent cabinet. As he himself is reported to have said, expert advice can always be invited for specific tasks.

The illiterate poor people of the State expect MGR to prove in real life what all he has done on the silver screen. It is no easy task to satisfy them. But we can depend on his sincerity,

Colonel Anand "Suicide" Case

Mystery Deepens As Bullet Found, CBI Takes Over

Over two weeks have elapsed now since the body of Lt. Colonel Tejinder Singh Anand, Sanjay Gandhi's father-in-law was discovered on the outskirts of his Punjab Khor farm. The Delhi Police though they came out promptly enough with their suicide theory, seem to have got themselves bogged down in a morass of clues and leads, each one more bewildering than the other.

Their deduction that Colonel Anand had taken his own life lacked any solid conviction right from the start, and even Mr. Mander, DIG admitted that the case "was open for further investigation."

The ·32 bullet which killed Colonel Anand had eluded discovery, in spite of an intensive, week-long search with metal detectors. Now it has been suddenly "found", but instead of an open-and-shut case being sewn up and the files closed, we learn that the CBI experts have now stepped in to take over.

Colonel Anand's driver Gurudev Singh was arrested by the Delhi police in connection with the missing revolver. the killer weapon alleged to have been used by Colonel Anand, on the basis of the statement made by the Colonel's farm-hand Pyarelal. Later a bail application was filed on behalf of Gurudev Singh which was opposed by the Police. After due deliberations the magistrate refused bail and remanded him to judicial custody.

Investigations have also revealed that though Colonel Anand possessed a fire-arm license, any actual purchase of a weapon has never been registered in his name. As a retired army officer he was entitled to keep a revolver, but the army sources too have denied any knowledge of any weapon issued to him which was not returned on his retirement.

The Anand family are completely tight-lipped about the existence of a weapon, or possession of one by the head of the house. They also do not seem inclined to state whether the Colonel had carried anything resembling a package containing a revolver when he left on his fateful journey.

Much importance was attached to the depressive state of the dead man's mind, and the published statements of his family referred to his recent sojourn in the nursing home of a local physician Dr. Sharma, for treatment. This added much weight to the suicide theory, until an enterprising reporter of a local tabloid dug up two astounding discoveries. He approached the doctor-owner of the nursing home, who flatly denied that Colonel Anand had ever been admitted into his establishment, and even produced his admission registers to bear him out. Later the same reporter interviewed Colonel Anand's son Veeran, who also firmly stated that his father had never been so ill as to need hospitalisation.

Colonel Anand was a highly paid "consultant" to the Narang's, Toshiba Anand, K. K. Birla and the West German firm DEMAG. He had three company cars at his disposal—besides his own personal vehicle. Yet he is said to have borrowed Rs. 5 from his maid-servant for his trip to the farm. The change after the bus fare was found on his dead body.

The whole case is riddled with impossibilities and gross at every step. The vague, half hearted theorising by the investigating authorities and the mysterious reluctance of the family of the deceased to come forth with anything even remotely helpful only adds to the confusion.

Now that the CBI has stepped into the picture, we can only wait until they have completed their investigations. But not for a minute do we doubt that a report of their findings, when it is eventually released to the public, will prove to be a reconstruction of one of the most heinous and cunningly executed murders in the history of crime in India.

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LIC Finance For Power Boards

Life Insurance Corporation of India invested a sum of Rs. 20.45 crores during May, 1977, by way of subscription to Bonds of the State Electricity Boards of eleven States in the country. Statewise allocations are : Bihar (2 crores), Haryana (2.20 crores), J&K (Rs. 1.00 crores), Madhya Pradesh (Rs 4.5 crores), Maharashtra (1.75 crores), Meghalaya (50 lakhs), Punjab (50 lakhs), Rajasthan (5 crores), Tamil Nadu (one crore), U.P. (2 crores) and West Bengal (3crores). Besides, a loan of Rs. 1.80 crores has been disbursed to Assam State Electricity Board.

During the month, the Corporation also subscribed to the debentures of a Public Limited Company to the extent of Rs. 1.00 crore and disbursed loans amounting to Rs. 97.80 lakhs to six Public Limited Companies in the Private Sector.

Ozone! Handle With Care!

By VITALI BABENKO

OZONE is an amazing gas. It has a dual nature. A modification of oxygen rather than oxygen itself, it is unstable and poisonous-in some sense even more poisonous than strychnine and cyanides. The reason is simple: its molecule contains three atoms of oxygen one of which it easily "gives up". This extra atom can cause a host of troubles: atomic oxygen is an extremely potent oxidizer.

Ozone's oxidizing properties are extensively employed by man. This gas can serve as a disinfectant, bleacher, deodorant, air sterilizer for asthmatics. It has long been observed that purifying of drinking water by ozonizing is much more effective than chlorination: ozone kills only bacteria and viruses, and kills a hundred times faster than chlorine, without forming compounds harmful to the denizens of rivers and lakes. It destroys the remains of pesticides and detergents and, on performing its beneficial job, disappears, leaving no aftertaste or smell.

The presence of ozone in the upper layer of the atmosphere (20-40 kilometres over the earth's surface) protects all that lives on our planet from the killer ultraviolet rays.

Billions of years ago there was no ozone layer over the earth. Nor did oxygen exist: the atmospeere was then a "cocktail" of water vapours, carbon dioxide, methane and other components. The sunrays split the molecules of water: hydrogen, as the lightest gas, flew away into outer space, atomic oxygen formed molecular oxygen and subsequently ozone. This is one among several hypotheses which seek to explain the emergence of oxygen in the earth's atmosphere.

This situation would sharply increase the number of malignant skin tumours. The course of photosynthesis reactions in green plants will be upset; unforeseen mutations may occur in animals. Since it is capable of penetrating to a depth of dozens of centimetres into water, the ultraviolet radiation would affect marine microrganisms. Consequently, the food chains in the World Ocean would lose their most vital link.

FAIRLY STABLE SHIELD

Fortunately, the ozone shield is fairly stable. Of the natural factors capable of destroying it, only one is known: the explosion of a supernova within a radius of 50 light years from the earth. That would be a disaster: our planet would lose 90 per cent of its ozone blanket in less than 100 years. Luckily, the harmless. However, the trouble is that on pushing the sub tance out of the can, they remain "idle", soaring to the upper layers of the atmosphere. There the ultraviolet rays knock atoms of chlorine out of the freons. Free chlorine spells imminent death to ozone: it avidly absorbs the "salutary layer" of ozone in the stratosphere.

What is to be done? Perhaps the manufacture of aerosols should be halted? If their output expands at an annual rate of 10 per cent, one-fifth of the ozone layer will have been lost by the year 2000. Little difference from a supernova explosion.

As the renowned astrophysicist Dr. Iosif Shklovsky, aptly observed; the behaviour of mankind, which is increasing the output of freons, can be compared to that of a space crew which have gone insane and are busy drilling holes in the walls of their craft, inevitably leading to depressurization.

The ozone layer is uneven over our planet. Its thickness depends on the time of year, latitude and weather. Presumably, some ozone tongues stretch to the surface of the earth.

> Ozone was discovered more than 100 years ago. In the second part of the 20th century it has developed into a worldwide issue. If certain measures are not taken, the consequences could well rival only the Flood.

POPULAR THEORIES

One of the latest and most popular theories associates the emergence of the oxygen-nitrogen atmosphere with the vital activity of plants, more specifically, blue green algae. Whatever the case another aspect of the matter is vital today. The ozone layer at a height of 20-40 kilometres provides protection from ultraviolet solar radiation-incidentally, the radiation which until a certain stage played an active role in the formation of aminoacids. With time these these acids fused into complex molecules, the tide of life on the planet rose, and for this life radiation was fatal. This was where the ozone layer went into action, assuming protection of the biosphere.

"The salutary layer of lethal gas"-a paradoxical but precise definition of the ozone shield-is extremely rarefied. Nevertheless, this light armour withstands nearly the whole impact of solar ultraviolet rays.

But let us imagine that the ozone layer begins to grow thin. What will happen to the earth's plant and animal world? To the world of man?

probability of such an event taking place is negligible.

Stratospheric supersonic planes would appear to be machines of the future. However, every such powerful craft leaves a trail behind it in the shape of a spray of condensed water vapour and exhaust gases. Reacting with ozone, the water vapour destroys it. According to estimates made by some scientists, 500 stratospheric planes in a year's continuous flights could rob us of half the ozone layer!

Thermonuclear tests in the amosphere were prohibited in most countries. It was a very timely ban. Because every such explosion releases an immense quantity of heat, which tears the ozone cover apart.

But there is another, equally formidable, danger for the fragile armour of the earth-the wide spread, supposedly harmless little aerosol cans which contain deodorants, air fresheners, cockroach killers, hair sprays. The point is that the "pushing" function in these cans is performed by freons. In themselves, these freons are

Possibly, ozone also moves from the troposphere to the upper layers of the atmosphere, in which case the ebbing away of the protective layer will sooner or later be compensated for. The main role is played by forests — our supply sources of fresh air. Now major importance is attached to ',green protection" in the complex of ecological problems.

There is yet another ozone-related problem — a really global one. It is the problem of affecting weather. Absorbing ultraviolet solar radiation, the ozone layer develops into a colossal heater element of the stratosphere and, consequently, of the lower layers of the air blanket. On the other hand, the ozone coat blocks the escape of terrestrial heat. Any changes in the temperature conditions controlled by ozone, can result in disturbances of the seasonal cycles of vegetation, onslaughts and retreats of deserts, variations of sea level. Scientists have estimted that the loss of half of the ozone layer would lean to the cooling of the whole atmosphere of the earth by one degree.

Use Of Computer In Industry

With a little co-ordination at the international level, the computer in the near future could bring invaluable help to collective bargaining by providing the parties involved—employers, trade unionists and government experts—with a sum of facts and figures never before assembled for this purpose.

Technical and political problems posed by the establishment of a computerized information system geared to industrial relations examined by a group of 12 experts who met at the International Labour Office (ILO) on 12-14 May.

IN TODAY'S WORLD

Continuing acceleration of technical and economic change is a mark of today's world, along with new demands for humanization of working conditions and of the working environment. This increased the need for effective industrial relations, as well as the need for the parties concerned to obtain as rapidly as possible all information that is pertinent to negotiations.

The parties dealing with a technical subject such as occupational safety, for example, should know the basic legislation and related legislation that exists on the subject. Statistics on work accidents, and various collective agreements are indispensable reference sources. Government, employers and workers also need to know what is taking place outside their own countries.

COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS

Several countries and a number of national and international trade union organizations already have fairly elaborate information systems which cover journals dealing with industrial relations, legislation and collective agreements. In Canada, there exists a Labour Agreements Data Bank covering the most important labour contracts in Qubec, and for the rest of the country, contracts covering one-third of unionized employees in each industry are stored on magnetic tape.

The Commission of European Communities is experimenting with a system by which collective agreements from member countries are stored on microfilm. Information about each agreement in the form of necessary elements of identification and coding of clauses is stored in a computerized data base, permitting easy retrieval and on-the-spot reading.

FUN AND LAUGHTER

PET WORRY!

A neighbour found the flier's wife in tears.

"What's the matter?" she asked.

"I'm worried about Henry," the wife answered. "He's been trying for a week to get rid of our cat. He finally decided to take her up to his plane and drop her over the side."

"Now, that's nothing to worry about," said the neighbour.

"It certainly is," wept the flier's wife. "Henry isn't home yet but the cat is."

WHICH KIND!

"I want a stick."

"Yes, sir—walking, candle, shooting or lip."

* * *

HIS WORRY

A bulky railway passenger at the booking office window. "Sir, Ticket Please."

The busy booking clerk: "Wait please."

The bulky passenger: "Are tickets now-a-days issued according to weight?"

* * *

MARRIAGE VARIATIONS

Some time ago a Michigan newspaper changed the customary Births, Marriages and Deaths to Hatched, Matched and Snatched. Now another rag offers a variation. Yells, Bells, Knells.

* * *

SCOTCH VACATION

Two men were talking, and one said. "Did you take a vacation?"

"Yes," answered the other, "a Scotch vacation—I stayed at home and let my mind wander"!

* * *

SHREWD REPLY

Husband: "Every time I look at that hat of yours, I have to laugh."

Wife: "Then I'll leave it where you can see it when the bill arrives."

* * *

FLOWERY LANGUAGE!

Mrs. Brown: "Has the new florist any children?"

Florist's Neighbour: "Yes, a girl who is a budding genius, and a boy who is a blooming nuisance."

x x x

MAN OF MANNERS!

Farmer: "Don't you see the sign 'Private. No Fishing Allowed'?"

Fisherman: "I never read anything marked 'Private.'"

HOLIDAY!

He: So, dearie, you will be satisfied if I send you to your mother's house twice a year?

She: Oh, yes.

He: How long would you stay each time?

She: Why? Not for long—about six months. That is all.

* * *

NO ERSATZ!

"Oh, sir, come quickly! They are giving your daughter artificial respiration!"

Mr. Newly Rich: "I never heard of such impertinence! As if I couldn't afford to pay for the genuine thing!"

* * *

HIS DEFENCE

"Now, Pat," said a magistrate sympathetically to an old offender. "What brought you here again?" "Two policemen, sir," was the laconic reply. "Drunk, I suppose?" queried the magistrate. "Yes, sir," said Pat, without relaxing a muscle, "both of them."

x x x

CONFUSED CONFESSION

Lawyer: "Now tell the court where did he kiss you?"

Witness: "On the mouth, sir."

Lawyer: "No, no. You don't understand. I mean—where were you?"

Witness: (blushing): "In his arms, sir."

x x x

REPORT

The English writer Francies Toye tells of a schoolmaster he had at Winchester who enjoyed reputation for short reports to parents. On one occasion he wrote of a certain boy. "Trying." which delighted the boy's parents until the next report came in. This one read, "Very trying,"

* * *

TRADE MARK

Hot: "I just received a telegram from my sweetie, but she omitted her name."

Stuff: "What makes you so positive it is she?"

"Hot: "There are four 'stops' in ten words!"

* * *

HER SYSTEM!

"Your wife is a very systematic woman, isn't she?"

"Yes, very. She works on the theory that you can find whatever you want when you don't want it by looking where it wouldn't be if you did want it."

HEREDITY

Mrs. Blupe: "Did you see the Smith twins?"

Blupe: "Yes."

Mrs. Blupe: "Don't you think the boy is a picture of his father?"

Blupe: "I do—and the girl is a talkie of her mother."

* * *

NEAT

Tom: "Do you file your fingernails?"

Dick: "Naw, I just throw them away after I cut them."

x x x

NOT EXCESSIVE

"Fancy a woman getting a thousand pounds damages for the lose of a thumb," said Mrs. Brown "It seems excessive."

"Perhaps," suggested Perkins, "it was the one she kept her husband under."

x x x

RIGHT GIFT!

"What a peculiar choice for a wedding present," remarked a woman trying not to laugh, as she inspected a huge flat-iron her charwoman had just bought.

'Ain't it, ma'am?' said the charwoman. "It's my sister that's getting married, and I'm repaying her for the gift she sent on my weddin' day."

"Did she send you something very ugly, then?"

"No, ma'am. Hers was a beautiful present. But, you see, ma'am, a little bird whispered to me that her future husband's a man of violent temper, and I thought I'd send her something that would be useful in case of family disputes. She has the straightest aim with a flat-iron I've ever seen!"

x x x

FAIR COMPENSATION

Two partners were running a big firm. One day one of them was found to be on his deathbed.

Naturally the other partner came to see him.

The dying man began to confess his sins.

"Dear Partner," he lamented, "Once I took out currency notes for a sum of Rs. 500 unknown to you. Once I read some of your love letters from your drawers. I awfully regret for those sins. I shall silently die if you will say me that you have excused me. O, in God's name pardon me......"

ECONOMY!

Thinking of encouraging his wife to economize by making her conscious of her expenditures, the husband bought her an account book, gave her Rs. 100 and explained.

"Now, dear, on one side you write down the money you received and on the other you put down what happened to it, and you'll always know just where you stand."

Several days later he looked in the book and on one side found: "Received Rs. 100," and on the other side was written: "Spent it all."

x x x

WILL NOT DO!

"Father," said the student "I want to talk to you about changing my course of study."

"Talk to your mother, son," replied the father, who was reading the sporting page.

"Mother," said the son, "I made a mistake when I chose chemistry. But it is not too late to change even yet. I want to take astronomy instead."

The mother said: "No! You have to think out some better excuse for staying out at night!"

x x x

GRAZING LADY!

In one small Kentucky town there lived a lady who sold newspaper advertising to grocery stores.

It was her habit, while the merchant was looking over the ad, to wander about the premises, helping herself to an apple here, a cookie there, a bunch of grapes elsewhere. One merchant wasn't very happy about this. One month he kept secret tab of her refreshments.

At about the time she got his advertising bill, she received a dum from him with this lone entry:

"For grazing $ 1.00."

x x x

LISTEN, GRAVITY!

A small girl was given to asking unusual questions. One of the things she wanted to know was why objects tossed into the air always fell to the ground. Papa answered this puzzle as best as he could—with this remarkable result:

Soon afterward the little girl was romping on the beach and became annoyed because her trunks kept slipping down, hampering her busy legs. Finally she halted and said sternly: "Listen, gravity, you quit pulling my pants down. Stop it."

x x •

PLAYING GAME!

Mother: "What was that noise."

Bobby: "I was playing bridge with little Robespierre."

Mother: "Playing bridge?"

Bobby: "Yeah, I stretched him between two chairs and walked across him."

For The Week 19th. June To 25th, June 1977

MESHA (ARIES)
Aswini Bharani
Krittika 1/4

MOST of the week shows ordinary results. But you should continue your efforts. You will be able to improve your position in a couple of months. Domestic atmosphere will not be happy. Avoid arguments with elders. Investment decisions should be taken after much consideration. Avoid any kind of speculation. You can expect some improvement in finances by the end of week. Favourable days: 24th & 25th.

★

VRISHABA (TAURUS)
Krittika 3/4 Rohini
Mrigashirsha 1/2

THE whole week can be said to be satisfactory. You can hope to complete outstanding work. Official atmosphere is good. Some relief is seen in domestic sphere. Money matter will be encouraging. Help from friends can be expected. Long distance travel should be avoided. Care is necessary in political field. Property matters could be finalised. Favourable days: 22nd & 23rd.

★

MITHUNA (GEMINI)
Mrigashirsha 1/2 Arudra
Punarvasu 3/4

THIS week begins with favourable indications in official sphere. Continue your efforts. You will be able to reap the benefits in a few months. Financial position will improve. But avoid speculative investments. Investment in real property is not up to your expectations. Children's affairs require more attention. You can expect cooperation from your family members in solving some of the outstanding problems. You may be undertaking a journey shortly. Favourable days. 20th & 21st.

★

KATAKA (CANCER)
Punarvasu 1/4 Pushya
Ashlesha

THE whole week can be said to be satisfctiory. Try to make best use of this opportunity to improve your prospects. Also try to complete outstanding work as early as possible. You may get a chance to take up a new and more attractive job Emotional stress should be avoided. If there is any worry relating to a member of the family, do not antagonise anybody. Generally health will be well maintained. Favourable days: 23rd & 24th.

★

SIMHA (LEO)
Maka Purva Palguni
Uttara Palguni 1/4

MOST of the week is favourable. Public relations and success in efforts will be encouraging. Official atmosphere will be encouraging. But there is need to be cautious in dealing with superiors. If you are careful, you can capitalise the present opportunity to your advantage. However you would be prepared for minor adjustment by the end of this week. Family affairs come for closer attention. Favourable days: 24th & 25th.

★

KANYA (VIRGO)
Uttara Palguni 3/4 Hastha
Chitra 1/2

THIS week opens with a renewed emphasis on monetary affairs. Speculative gains are also indicated. There is no major change in official sphere. However you should continue your efforts to gain recognition. Financial position will improve from the middle of the week. Political and social trend will be encouraging. You can expect cooperation from your family members. Health will be well maintained. Favourable days: 19th & 20th.

★

THULA (LIBRA)
Chitra 1/2 Swathi
Visakha 3/4

THERE is speculative attraction this week. There is some improvements in family environment. In affairs of heart you should be prepared for some disappointment. Partnership matters require more attention. Your mind will go towards fresh comforts and luxuries. You can expect some benefits from your friends. Finance is fairly satisfactory. Avoid travel unless necessary. Favourable days: 22nd & 23rd.

★

VRISCHIKA (SCORPIO)
Vishakha 1/4 Anuradha
Jyeshtha

THERE is some improvement in family sphere. Keep an eye on children. Correspondence will be favourable. You should try to cultivate new friendship. You can expect some benefits from opposite sex. Finance will improve. But you should avoid any kind of speculative investments. Continue your efforts in official sphere. You will be well rewarded for your efforts in the near future. Short journeys are indicated. Favourable days: 24th & 25th.

★

DHANUS (SAGITTARIUS)
Mula Purva Ashadha
Uttara Ashadha 1/4

THIS week starts well. Professional prospects are bright. You can expect some benefits from superiors. Family work will be exacting. But you can expect some relief by the end of this week. Health will be well maintained. Partnership matters could be finalised. Long distance travel is possible during this week. Property matters should be handled properly to avoid complications later. Favourable days: 20th & 21st.

★

MAKARA (CAPRICORNUS)
Uttara Ashadha 3/4
Shravana Dhanistha 1/2

THIS week indicates mixed results. You will be able to solve some of your problems. Financial position will be satisfactory. Speculative gains are also indicated. Family members will be cooperative. Matters relating to children should be handled properly to avoid complications later.

You should be cautious in dealing with strangers. You can expect some changes in official sphere by the end of this week. Favourable days : 24th & 25th.

★

KUMBHA (AQUARIUS)
Dhanishta 1/2 Sathabhishag
Purva Badrapada 3/4

THIS week opens with an optimistic note. You may be offered a new and more attractive assignment. You should try to develop new source of income. Family members will be cooperative. You may have to take a decision to change your residence. But it is better to wait for some more time to finalise the arrangement. Avoid long journeys unless necessary. Favourable days: 20th & 21st.

★

MEENA (PISCES)
Purva Badrapada 1/4
Uttara Badrapada Revati

THERE is scope for financial improvement. Family members will be cooperative. But avoid friction with elders. Professional prospects are bright. You will be given a more attractive assignment shortly. Change of place is indicated for some. Property matters should be handled properly. You should try to complete long pending work. Religious performance is indicated in the family. Avoid long journeys unless necessary. Favourable days: 22nd & 23rd.

GLOSSARY

Arudra	—திருவாதிரை
Pushya	—பூசம்
Ashlesha	—ஆயில்யம்
Purva Phalguni	—பூரம்
Uttara Phalguni	—உத்திரம்
Anuradha	—அனுஷம்
Jyeshtha	—கேட்டை
Purva Ashada	—பூராடம்
Uttara Ashada	—உத்திராடம்
Shravana	—திருவோணம்
Dhanistha	—அவிட்டம்
Satha Bhishag	—சதயம்
Purva Bhadrapada	—பூரட்டாதி
Uttara Bhadrapada	—உத்திரட்டாதி

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Muscovite's Diary

Ivan Ivanov

NEW SOVIET CONSTITUTION—SOME NEW FEATURES

NOW, a nationwide discussion of the Draft of the New Constitution has begun in the Soviet Union. Considering that every Soviet family receives an average of four periodicals, a copy of the published Draft of the future fundamental law of the country can be found in every home today.

The Draft of the Constitution the USSR is a document of enormous historical and political significance. In accordance with the principle of continuity, the Draft fully takes into account the foundations of Soviet State-building which were established by Lenin, as well as the clauses in the previous constitutions of the Soviet State.

The new Constitution contains fully twice the number of Articles on the rights and freedoms of the citizens, compared to the existing Constitution. The fundamental law of the Soviet state is being revised after four decades. The present Constitution came into force in 1936.

The new Constitution will "consolidate the new level of social homogeneity of the Soviet society and give legal constitutional form to the social, economic and political rights of citizens in line with the new level of democracy".

A special section dealing with "the State and the Individual" spells out the extended guarantees ensuring the rights and freedoms of the individual. The rights proclaimed by the Constitution, such as the right to work, are materially guaranteed by the achievements of the advanced socialist society.

A new addition to the rights is the right of citizens to health protection, which means, the right to receive free, qualified, medical assistance. Soviet citizens have always enjoyed this privilege, but there is now a qualitative difference. As against seven doctors and 40 hospital beds per 10,000 of the population four decades ago, today there are 33 doctors and 118 hospital beds.

In education too, a great forward leap has been made. The 1936 Constitution provided for universal, compulsory eight-year education. The new draft provides for compulsory secondary education as well as higher education free of charge.

The right of every citizen to have a home is also enshrined in the new draft, with only eight million sq.m. of housing built a year then, the 1936 Constitution could not ensure guaranteed housing. Today, the USSR builds 100 million sq.m. of housing a year.

The new draft reaffirms freedom of conscience—which means not only the right to profess and practise any religion, but also the right not to profess any religion at all. Provoking hatred or enmity on grounds of religion is banned.

The inviolability of the person is also spelt out. Nobody may be arrested except with a court ruling. Nobody may enter a home without the consent of the owner or without valid legal reason. The citizen's private life, privacy of correspondence, telephone conversation, etc. are protected by law.

x x x

MOSCOW MEET RECALLS 1857 INDIAN REVOLT

The 1857 Indian revolution was one of the most inspiring sources of India's struggle for independence. This view was expressed by both Soviet and Indian speakers at a meeting held recently at Friendship House here to commemorate the 120th anniversary of the great Indian revolution.

Inaugurating the meeting Mr. V. Danilov, Vice-President of Soviet-Indian Friendship Society, said that the Soviet people have great respect for the Indian people and their achievements. "The great transformations in the social, political and economic life of India have become possible, thanks to the selfless struggle of the Indian people for their national independence", Mr. Danilov added.

Mr. E. Komarov, a leading Soviet Indologist, while giving an account of the 1857 events in India and their role in the further development of India's struggle for independence, observed that the present struggle of the Afro-Asian peoples against colonialist and imperialist intrigues, is inspired by their historical experience.

Mr. B.M. Shukla, Counsellor in Indian Embassy in Moscow, spoke of the ever-growing friendship between the Soviet and Indian peoples.

* * *

ANOTHER SPACE MYSTERY SOLVED ?

The belt of asteriods between Mars and Jupiter did not emerge from the disintegration of the hypothetic planet Phaeton, according to 28 year old Soviet geochemist Vera Semenenko.

Vera Semenenko studied 37 meteorites that fell on the territory of the Ukraine since the beginning of the 19th century. The meteorites were subjected to microscopic and X-ray spectral analysis present in the fragments of a disintegrated planet, would retain traces of the colossal pressure of the planetary mass. The atoms of substance should have been shifted accordingly and fixed in this position for ever.

However, according to Semenenko's study, no such shifts were discovered. Small changes in microstructure occurred only due to collisions during the meteorities' journey in space. It was possible to determine the size of colliding primary splinters which did not exceed ten kilometres in diameter.

Commenting on the study results, the well-known Soviet geochemist Professor Emlen Sobotovich said: "We will probably have to give up the idea that Phaeton ever existed, but we shall have to make allowance for asteroids flying into the solar system from distant parts of the universe, including other galaxies. This gives rise to a hypothesis that rock meteorites may emerge independently from the adhesion of cosmic dust. After that they serve as 'building material' for planet".

Morn Than Half of Children In Asia Predisposed To Infection, Malnutrition

MORE than half of the children in most Asian countries are predisposed to malnutrition and infection even before they are born.

The underfeeding of mothers before and during pregnancy results in high infant mortality rates and low birth weights of children born to poor families in Asia.

These and other facts about children in Asia are contained in two reports prepared by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), for its Executive Board which met in Manila recently.

The reports, which cover all Asian countries receiving UNICEF assistance, conclude that encouraging steps being taken in several countries could lead to better prospects for the children of the region.

In the East Asia region programmes for children generally are being strengthened and in south-central Asia improved agricultural production and various measures by Governments are already beginning to benefit children.

Another encouraging sign is that a number of countries are showing interest in developing lowcost, community-oriented basic services in the inter-related fields of maternal and child health including family planning, nutrition, water supply, basic education and supporting services for women.

Interest in enhancing the role of women in development is also growing steadily. Activity in this field is shifting from the discussions on women's needs and problems, which characterized most of 1975, to research and action programmes.

These trends have been further strengthened by the economic recovery now taking place in most countries. In 1976 economic growth picked up from the depressed level of 1975 as most countries increased production improved trade and adapted further to the oil problem.

The trend in most of Asia is towards redefining development goals. Beyond measuring economic developments through growth rates of gross national product, more and more governments are now increasing emphasis on the human dimension of development.

The issue of raising the quality of life of the less fortunate groups in the society is explicitly mentioned in the national development plans of some countries and is the central issue in the plan formulation exercises of a number of others.

In India, for example, in adopting the current fifth five-year economic development plan, the then Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi declared,......"Planning cannot be an esoteric exercise confined to experts. All people at state, district and local level must be fully involved in the process",

She added: "The reduction of disparities of all kinds—social, economic and regional—must always remain one of the central objectives of our development planning. The direction of our planning is to solve over a period of time the problems of the poor of all communities, and regions......".

Intentions are being transformed into actions in many countries; government social expenditures, although still low, have risen gradually in in the early 1970s.

Since most of Asia's poor live in the rural areas, number of countries are increasing investments in the rural sector. The UNICEF reports note a generally more purposive and relevant approach to programme planning in the region.

UNICEF's advocacy of alternative approaches to the delivery of primary health care and basic services has had an encouraging reception. A

(Contd. on page 7)

From page 1

THE MGR WAVE

the Lok Sabha that English will be continued as a link language and additional official language as long as the non-Hindi speaking people wanted it;

(3) The economic arguments and political talking points of intellectual leaders like Dr. Subramaniam Swamy do not seem to have cut much ice with that section of the electorate which relies on film heroes and parochial rabble-rousers;

(4) The slogan of Democracy vs. Dictatorship did not have a real impact on a region, where one class of people were worried about their jobs, promotions and perquisites and the other about their daily bread and a roof over their head;

(5) The Janata's leadership in Tamil Nadu did not quite measure up to a challenge of the scale of a general election. Its President, Mr. P. Ramachandran, has had the reputation of a diligent and reliable lieutenant in the life time of Mr. Kamaraj and not that of an inspiring leader. He can hardly be the electorate's dynamic image of a vote-getter. With the exception of a few good speakers like Mr. Krishnamurthi and Kumari Anandan, the second line of defence in Tamil Nadu's Janata is vulnerable for any one to see;

(6) While the Congress has a history of over 90 years, the DMK a quarter of a century and the ADMK at least five years, the Janata is less than five months old in Tamil Nadu. Of its constituent units, the Jan Sangh had almost no roots and Swatantra was confined to a few ageing industrialists and land-owners. The absence of Kamaraj was a serious blow;

(7) The new party symbol of "Halder within a Wheel" had created a lot of confusion among the potential supporters in the districts who are more familiar with the Congress (O) symbol of "Woman with a spinning wheel". Even at the party headquarters, the hardcore Congress (O) workers were not obviously quite reconciled to a loss of identity and domination by comparative new comers from the North; and

(8) Last but not least was the invincible apathy of the educated, wage-earning middle class, whose cynicism borders on fatalism. Their "can't-care-less" attitude to the voting process stands in shining contrast to that of the citizens of Western democies like U.K., U.S., France etc., where it is taken seriously as a sacred duty. The impact of this was mainly on the Janata, which had lost many potential voters. As illuck would have it, there were intermittant showers on the polling day in Madras (June 14), which kept many literate housewives in the comfort of their homes, at a safe distance from the slush and mud near the polling booths. The poll percentage (of about 45 to 50) was the lowest in the city; and the worst sufferer in the bargain was the Janata Party.

After all is said and done, it must be admitted that nothing succeeds like success and nothing fails like failure. It is now the turn of the AIADMK to enjoy the fruits of success, after the nine-year period of DMK's unchallenged power, before the dismissal of its Ministry in January 1976. In success as well as in failure, life has its sweet revenges. The DMK leader Karunanidhi, has been thundering at his election meetings that he would not mind being in the opposition. He has, in fact, long been reconciled to that. But what he did not want was that the State should be ruled by what he chose to describe as a "non-Tamilian". In his eyes, the great "MGR" is just that, though he is shooting up in popular imagination not only as the darling of the masses but the truest of the true Tamils. Mr. Karunanidhi might do well to remember that it is not worthwhile for those who look for pristine purity to trace the origin of Rishis as of rivers. Also that those who live in glass houses should not throw stones at others!

There is yet another revenge. Leaders of the Janata Party like Mr. Chandrasekhar, Acharya Kripalani and Babu Jagjivan Ram have been questioning the relevance of regional parties in the new national context (their alliance with the Akalis notwithstanding). They had worked for and partly achieved a sort of polarisation of political forces. They had appealed to the regional parties (including those in Tamil Nadu) to merge with one or the other of the national parties. Against this background they can hardly be prepared for the outcome of the election in Tamil Nadu. The electorate has returned only the regional parties, for the first two places, giving the cold shoulder to the 'National'.

Mr. Kripalani it was who remarked on the election-eve that while the people of Tamil Nadu have a high I. Q., the real intellectuals seem to be keeping out of politics. The last great intellectual who bothered himself with politics, according to him, was Rajaji. It remains to be seen if and when there will be a departure from this position. It will take a long time and involve no end of hard and sustained work among the masses for the message of the National parties to spread to every nook and corner of Tamil Nadu. Even so, it is anyone's guess if and when Tamil Nadu can be brought back into the national mainstream.

From page 6

More Than Half of Children...

number of countries have either begun or are considering community based, self help programmes to meet the needs of the people in the rural areas.

Bhutan has embarked upon an integrated approach—bringing services together at the point of delivery—to valley development in different parts of the country, concentrating efforts on the introduction of services which are mutually supporting.

Burma is considering a programme under which 700 primary health workers from the community would undertake treatment of minor ailments, first aid, environmental sanitation, health and nutrition education, and assist family health activities.

As part of its advocacy for children, UNICEF tries to promote the enhancement of the position of women. It was among the first to encourage programmes designed to benefit Asian women not merely as recipients of services but by making them important parts of the delivery system and thus more valuable members of the community.

Village women are being trained as health workers in the Philippines and as general community development workers in Indonesia. In Bangladesh, Pakistan and the Philippines, handicrafts and animal-raising projects help increase women's contribution to family income.

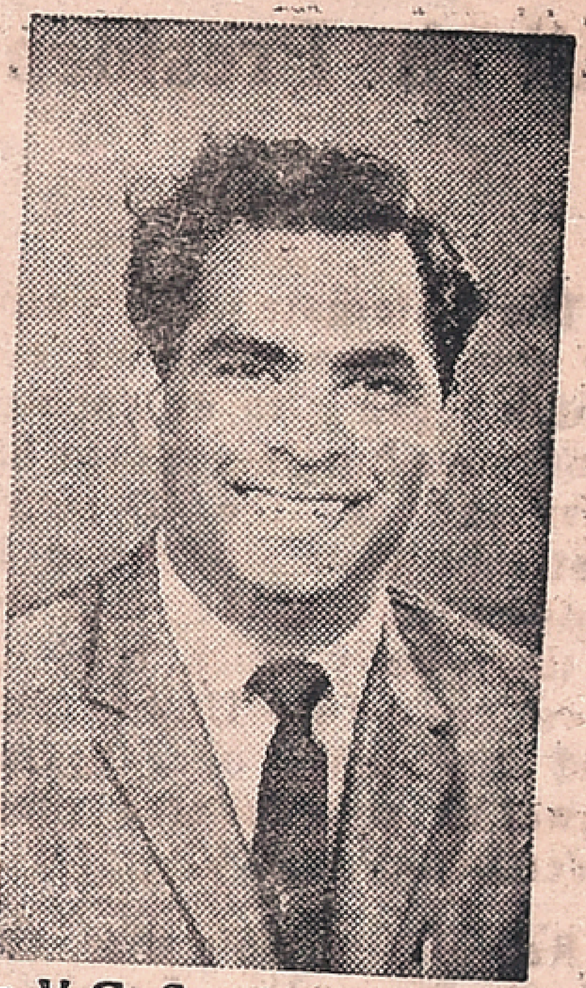
With such new initiatives in the region, the UNICEF field offices say, the direction is towards a better life for the children of Asia. Food shortages and rapid population growth, however, still continue to pose real problems. Although satisfactory grain crops improved the food situation in many countries, most Asian countries are on the whole not much better off today than they were ten years ago.

At the World Food Conference in April 1976, a number of countries including Bangladesh, Burma Indonesia, Pakistan and the Philippines were classified as "food priority countries" Criteria included low per capita income, projected cereal deficits, incidence of under-nutrition, inadequate agricultural performance and potential for improved production.

The Director-General of the Indian Council of Medical Research recently told Indian journalists that "according to our economists nearly 40 to 50 per cent of our people live below the poverty line, meaning that even if they spend 90 per cent of their income on food they still cannot afford a balanced diet".

The lack of food is evident from a mumber of indicators. More than half the children in most Asian countries are predisposed to malnutrition and infection even before they are born.

Visit Abroad



Mr. V. G. Santhosham brother of Mr. V. G. Panneerdas, will leave Madras on June 27 on a tour of the Arabian countries to find out the market condition there for Indian handicrafts. He will be returning back in August.

While on the tour he will be studying the industrial development, housing projects and tourist centres in those countries.

Mr. Santhosham is an executive member of the Handicrafts Export promotion council.

Asian Re-Insurance Agreement

India has signed a United Nations-sponsored agreement on establishing an Asian Re-insurance Corporation.

In a ceremony at the United Nations Building, Bangkok Indian Ambassador to Thailand Mr. G. J. Malik, signed the agreement, drawn up in December 1976 by a round table meeting under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). India is the second country to sign after Iran.

FILM REVIEW

All The President's Men

The Watergate story is old hat by now. The chain of events which began with an apparently innocuous burglary at the headquarters of the D mocratic National Committee, and later snowballed into the news scoop of the century which toppled the President of the United States, had established once again the power of an unfettered press in a democracy.

Redford-Pakula's film version of the best-seller by the two young Washington Post reporters Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward recaptures the blow by blow thrill of the exhilarating news hunt, which we can look upon now as one of the most brilliant pieces of investigative reporting in the history of the free press.

The diary of one of the arrested burglars contains the telephone number of a top presidential aide Colson. Woodward (Robert Redford) stumbles on this during the hearing, and wite the characeristic nosiness of the confirmed newshound he pursues it doggedly. He teams up with another young reporter Bernstein (Dustin Hoffman), and the two proceed to rip open and lay bare the tangle of intrigue and cover-ups that involve the highest of the high. Heads roll one by one as the investigation proceed Mitchell, D an, Segretti, Colson .....political strong-men in their own rights, are laid low as the sordid tale of falshood, secret funds and political skulduggery are exposed. And when CREEP (Committee to Re-elect the President) head Haldeman is finally flagered le the inexorable unravelling process, the connivance of the first citizen of the United States Richard Nixon becomes an astounding and unbelievable certainty.

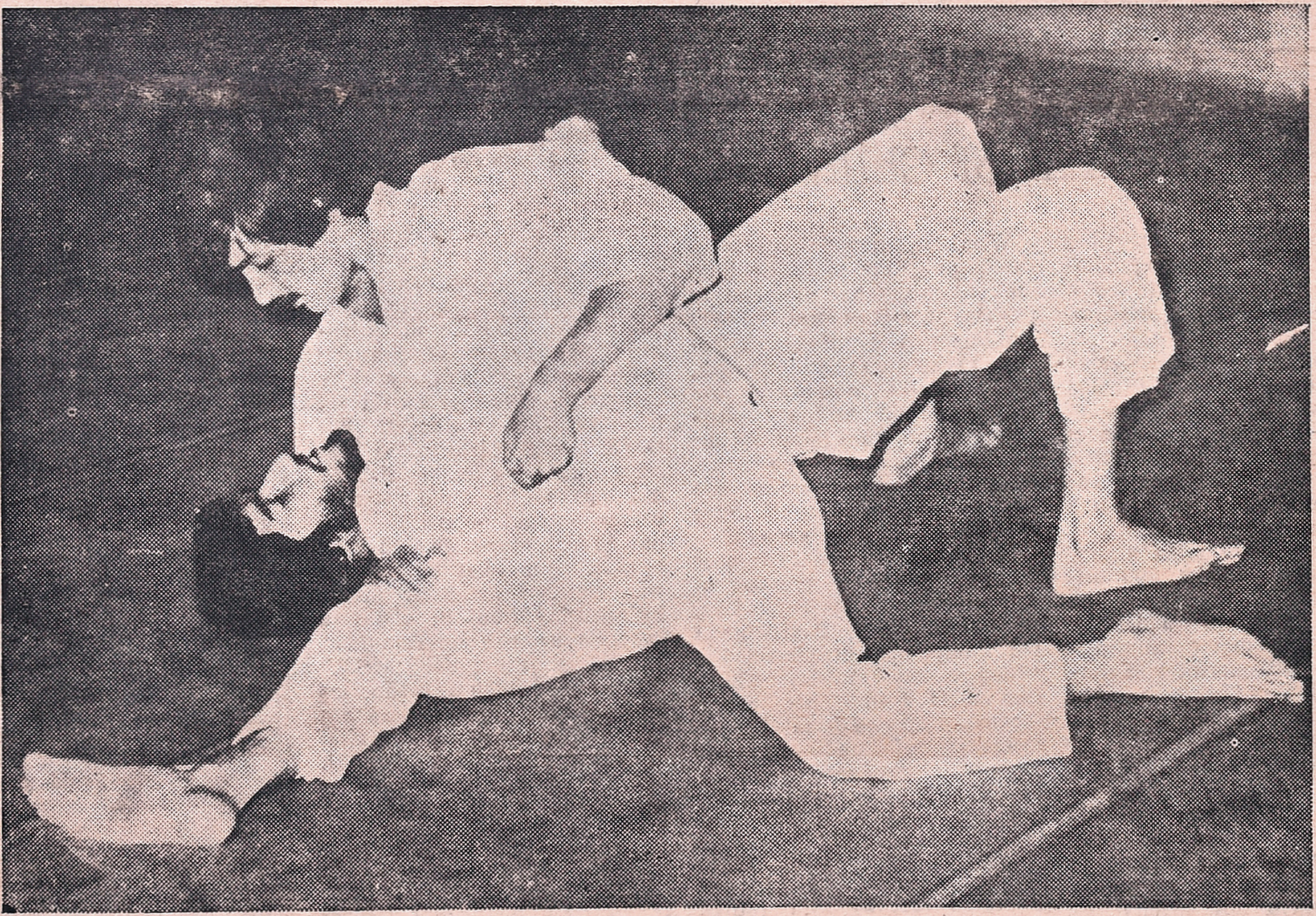
Both Redford and Hoffman, super-stars in their own class, have shed their glamour image to give superb performances as the stubborn newsmen who finally bring home the bacon in no uncertain manner. Faced by cynical superiors in their own office, stumbling blocks created by the fearsome powers that be, and finally open threats to their lives, they carry on undaunted with the irrepressible spirit of the true journalist. They underplay their roles to give just that berfect touch of credibility, and to perpetuate for all time the image of the unkempt, inquisitive, leech like newsman.

The most convincing performance among the supporting cast is probably by Jason Robards, as the crusty, ill-tempered news editor, whose free usage of four-letter epithets in no way effects the respect he commands among his colleagues, and whose courage in backing up his reporters results in the biggest triumph to date for the freedom of the press. —V.S.

M. S. VASANTHI

New face, M.S. Vasanthi, a graduate, is making her debut in Rasikalaya's "Brindavanathil Nanchakumaran" directed by the Tamil writer Thamarai Mananaian.

Judo In India



The gentle art of self-defence which originated in Japan is fast catching on in our country. The Nethaji Subash National Institute in Kakinada, has included regular judo classes in its curriculum. Twenty-two successful students who had taken the course passed out recently from the institute.

The classes are conducted under the personal supervision of a Jap instructor, Mr. Takashi Okada. Two classes of training are in existence, one lasting forty days, and another for advanced techniques lasting ten months.

Judo as a sport is highly beneficial both for the mind and the body. Unarmed combat is a major subject both in our defence training establishments and police schools. It builds up the reflexes, and what is more important, it endows the learner with a vast amount of self-confidence.

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